



SECRET STITCH SOCIETY WRAP BY ELKE PROBST & STEPHANIE SHIMAN



About 15 years ago, I found these 7-inch double-pointed needles in an Alabama antique shop, sparking my fascination with wartime knitting. Their protectors are made from two early-20th-century Canadian ammunition casings, still connected by remnants of red, white, and blue ribbon. Their history remains a mystery!

Knitting and espionage have a fascinating history, with tales of secret messages hidden in stitches and codes concealed in knitting needles. Separating fact from folklore can be tricky, but we love the intrigue!

That mystery inspired this scarf or wrap, featuring stitch patterns named for secret messages, coded communications, and clandestine adventures. No actual espionage required—just yarn, needles, and perhaps a secret or two.

Yarn: Wonderland Yarns “Mad Hatter” sport weight, 100% superwash merino: **MC:** 1, 4 oz skein (344 yards) & **CC1-8:** 8, 1 oz skeins (85 yards each)

Needles & Notions: US size 5/3.75mm OR size needed to get proper gauge, yarn needle, scrap yarn for provisional cast-on, stitch markers (optional to mark pattern repeats)

Gauge: 24 sts & 28 rows = 4"/10 cm in Dashes pattern, blocked

Measurements:

ample scarf: with 78 sts: 13³/₄" / 35 cm wide × 88.5 / 225 cm long, **or** 108" / 274 cm long with additional garter rows, blocked

wrap: with 102 sts: 18"/46 cm wide & 64" / 162.5 cm long, **or** 78"/198 cm long with additional garter rows, blocked

Abbreviations: **BO:** bind, off; **CC:** contrasting color; **CO:** cast on; **k:** knit; **k2tog:** knit two stitches together (1 st decreased); **kfb:** knit in the front and back of the same stitch (1 st increased); **MC:** main color; **RS:** right side; **st(s):** sts; **WS:** wrong side; * *, (): repeat instructions

Other abbreviations used in the charts are listed in the Decoding Key.

Techniques: simple lace & texture knitting, changing colors

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

Notes before starting:

This wrap is knit with the eight mini skeins (CC1-8) and the one 4 oz skein for garter border and dividers. You will pair each mini skein with a pattern of your choice.

All of the stitch patterns are designed to work with either cast-on, but may require adding or subtracting stitches as directed. Each pattern states the stitch count needed to work the stitch pattern / chart. Please adjust your stitch count for your next chosen stitch pattern, during the “Switch Color” section. Written instructions are written to match the charted repeat. The three garter edge stitches on each side are **NOT** charted.

Work with each mini skein for 3.5"/9 cm to 4"/10 cm or until you have just enough of that color to complete the repeat and work two more rows of garter. Note that some patterns end with a couple extra rows after the pattern repeat, or end the last repeat a couple rows short of a full repeat. Make sure to take these pattern specific rows in consideration when considering how far you can work, so that you will be able to work the two garter rows.

Adjusting stitch counts:

Stitch patterns are generally worked over multiples of 2, 4, 6, 8, or 12 stitches. Some patterns require 1 or 2 additional stitches. See “Stitch Pattern Index.”

Stitch Pattern Index by Stitch Count:

78 (102) sts:

- No. 1: Dashes (multiple of 4 sts)
- No. 2: Footprints (multiple of 4 sts)
- No. 4: Whispers on the Breeze (multiple of 12 sts)
- No. 5: Signal Shift (multiple of 4 sts)
- No. 11: Mixed Messages (multiple of 8 sts)
- No. 12: Crooked Paths (multiple of 6 sts)
- No. 13: Redacted (multiple of 6 sts)
- No. 14: Code Matrix (multiple of 4 sts)
- No. 15: False Trail (multiple of 4 sts)

79 (103) sts:

- No. 3: Hidden Forest (multiple of 12 + 1 st)
- No. 6: Slipped Signals (multiple of 2 + 1 st)
- No. 7: Holes in the Plan (multiple of 8 + 1 st)
- No. 9: Crossed Lines (multiple of 4 + 1 st)
- No. 10: Hidden Passages (multiple of 4 + 1 st)

80 (104) sts:

- No. 8: Marked Cards (multiple of 6 + 2 sts)

Stitch Count Adjustment Rows:

Use these rows (in place of the first RS row) in the “Switch Color” section to increase or decrease as needed for your next stitch.

Increase 1 st: K38 (50), kfb, k to end of row. (+1 st)

Increase 2 sts: K25 (33), kfb, k25 (33), kfb, k to end of row. (+2 sts)

Decrease 1 st: K38 (50), k2tog, k to end of row. (-1 st)

Decrease 2 sts: K25 (33), k2tog, k25 (33), k2tog, k to end of row. (-2 sts)



Scarf/Wrap:

With MC and either a long-tail or similar foundational cast-on, CO 78 (102) sts.

Rows 1-12: Knit. (6 garter ridges made)

(Note: for a longer scarf/wrap that uses more of the MC, knit 24 rows in this section—12 garter ridges made.)

Cut MC.

Switch Color:

**With CC1, knit two rows (adjusting your sts count according to the stitch pattern). (1 garter ridge made)

Stitch Pattern:

Continue with CC, working the stitch pattern of your choice, ***while knitting the first and last 3 sts on each RS (odd number) and WS (even number) row.*** Work each stitch pattern for 3.5"/9 cm – 4"/10 cm, or until you have just enough yarn for 2 more rows.

Finish with CC:

Knit two rows. (1 garter ridge made)

Cut CC.

Garter Stitch Divider:

Rejoin MC, knit 6 rows (3 garter ridges made).

(Note: for a longer scarf/wrap that uses more of the MC, knit 24 rows in this section—12 garter ridges made.)

Cut MC.**

Repeat from ** to ** until you have worked all of CC1 – CC8 each time working the stitch pattern of your choice.

After working the last Garter Stitch Divider, do NOT cut MC, but rather knit another 6 rows (12 rows for the longer version) for the ending garter edging. BO knitwise on the next RS row.

Cut yarn, weave in ends. Block to desired size, opening lace.